

This morning I read in the Sacramento Bee about Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves. None of the stations or candidates are in my own area so I don't have a personal interest but as a Democrat and a concerned citizen I find this blatant abuse of the airways and affront to Democracy.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard.

I don't have the money to own radio and television stations so people like myself cannot compete with this unfair use of something that belongs to me as well as Pappas . . . public airwaves.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Swarthout